

## The Gift beyond both Loss and Gain

**W**E LOSE things during Lent. The liturgy in this season continually prunes us. Our holy mother the Church, in her liturgy, undergoes death before the feast of the Resurrection.

We stop singing or saying the word 'Alleluia' from Ash Wednesday onwards. Flowers are removed from the sanctuary. The music is deliberately plainer, and there is more silence. Beginning on Passion Sunday, statues and images are veiled in purple drapes. The pruning cuts more deeply as we begin the *Triduum*. The *Glory Be* is dropped from the ending of psalms.

On Maundy Thursday the stoups are emptied of holy water. After the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the tabernacle on the main altar, which itself is stripped of cloths and candles, and left bare. Bells are replaced with wooden clappers.

On Good Friday there isn't even a Mass. Instead there is the Liturgy of the Passion. But there is still Holy Communion.

On Holy Saturday, there isn't even Holy Communion. By the time we get to the Easter Vigil we are deprived of light itself. The liturgy begins in darkness.

### Darkness.

This darkness at the beginning of the Easter Vigil is the point to which Holy Mother Church has been leading us through Lent. The liturgical 'sensory deprivation' is a forceful bringing to mind of who and what we are. That we are children lost in a haunted wood, and all our efforts and loves and endeavours have failed us. When the darkness is darkest, then we are less likely to be fooled by false gleamings.

'*Lumen Christi!*' we hear in the night. 'The Light of Christ!'

Then we see the Light of Christ, 'a flame divided yet undimmed', divided among us, bringing his Light to us.

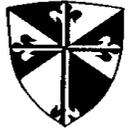
There is no light except Christ. Left on our own, left to our own devices, we will fail, both by our life and by our death. We will lose everything that we have loved and wanted and cherished. The darkness then is the condition we are in. Only Christ can save us, not merely from death, but also from life. He redeems us, bestows everlasting life upon us.

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website <http://www.torch.op.org>

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 Parish Priest: Fr Tony Rattigan: 252 1501 For home visits: 255 3856



Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Vigil at 8pm	For the People	Fr Leon
8:00am	Fr Isidore	John Irwin, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Holy Souls	Fr David
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Deceased members of the Black family	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	Peace in Colombia and in the world	Fr Duncan

**SUNDAYS IN TERM: MASS FOR STUDENTS at 5pm (in the Church).  
NO MASS now until next term.**

Sunday Evening Services	22 March	Confessions	29 March
5:45 Rosary	Fr Duncan	10:30 - 11:30am*	Fr Fabian
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Leon	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Duncan
6:40 Benediction (not Easter Day)	No confessions	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Tony

\* to 12 noon on Saturday 22 March

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	I have risen: I am with you once more; you placed your hand on me to keep me safe. How great is the depth of your wisdom, alleluia!
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Acts 10: 34. 37-43
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	<b>This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (Ps 117)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Colossians 3: 1-4
<b>Sequence:</b>	Victimae paschali laudes immolent Christiani... Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise...
<b>Alleluia:</b>	<b>Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 20: 1-9
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1605.67; SVP £12.09; St. Martin's Missions £2.70; Holy Souls £7.01; Grenada £3.50.

The First Friday Coffee Mornings have raised a further £98 for the upkeep of the church.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead		
Monday:	Easter Monday. There will only be one Mass today, at 10am, after which the church will be closed.	
Tuesday:	Easter Tuesday. The solemnity of the Annunciation is transferred to 31 March.	
Wednesday:	Easter Wednesday	
Thursday:	Easter Thursday	
Friday:	Easter Friday	
Saturday:	Easter Saturday	
Next Sunday's Readings: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)		
Acts 2: 42-47	1 Peter 1: 3-9	John 20: 19-31

**Refugee and Asylum Support: URGENT NEED FOR HELP.** The Red Cross (244 London Road) has said: Our cupboards are empty! We need the following -

- **Tinned goods:** beans/ soup/ kidney beans/ tinned fruit/ tuna/ mackerel/ corned beef/ tinned veg;
- **Dried foods:** Rice/ pasta/ dried fruit/ cereal/ crisps/ noodles/ cereal bars/ nuts/ indian savoury mix/ chocolate;
- **Drinks:** Fruit juice/ tea/ coffee/ dried milk/ squash/ water;
- **Extras:** Baby milk/ baby food jars/ porridge/ nappies/ baby wipes/ oil;
- **Toiletries:** toothpaste/ soap/ toilet paper.

Please help with any of these if you can. The collection point after the 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday Masses is Holy Cross Centre. At the other Sunday Masses it is the Wellington Street entrance. We are very grateful to you for your support. It is good to do something to help.

**Memories and Dreams of Life and Light.** An exhibition featuring three people who came to Leicester seeking a place of safety and a new home - at the Museum, New Walk, from 29 March to 18 May. Free admission.

**VACANCY:** Christ the King Catholic Primary School in Leicester is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, committed person to coordinate and lead Keystage 1 and Literacy across the school. The successful candidate would be part of the Senior Leadership Team. Please contact the school office for application forms (0116 285 7261). Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. Closing date Friday 18th April.

**Faith and Fun for the Whole Family.** A weekend conference called "Celebrate" will be held at Princethorpe College, Warwickshire, on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May. Details on the noticeboard and from [www.celebrateconference.org/heartofengland](http://www.celebrateconference.org/heartofengland), 01564 732337 or [celebratemidlands@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:celebratemidlands@yahoo.co.uk). Booking is essential.



**BLACKFRIARS MARKET**, our principal fundraising event of the year, will be held on Saturday 10 May. Please make a note in your diary! There will be a meeting of helpers in the Priory Library on Saturday 29 March at 10:30am. All offers of help will be gratefully received, even if you can't make the meeting. Please see Fr Tony.

**Our Lady and the Rosary** - a series of five talks on Friday evenings in the Parish Hall. Begins Friday 4th April. For more details see the Newsletter soon.

**John Smeaton, Director of the Society for Unborn Children (SPUC)** will be giving a talk on pro-life issues at 7pm on Tuesday 8 April in Blackfriars Hall, Holy Cross. All parishioners are invited to attend to hear more about the problems of abortion, embryo research etc in society today and, hopefully, get involved in new work going on in the City on pro-life issues. For more details please contact Sica Martinez on 0775 88 44 918 or 0116 274 2014.

**The Ratcliffian Association Retreat** will be held at the college from Friday 28 March to Sunday 30 March. Details on the noticeboard.

**The Feast of the Divine Mercy, Sunday 30 March.** There will be an afternoon of Devotions, the main celebrant being Bishop Malcolm. At Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead. See noticeboard for details or ring Mary Sage on 210 2025.

**Christians Aware** invite you to an India Day on Saturday 19 April. See noticeboard.

**The Carmelite Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer - The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites** invite you to join them. See the noticeboard and handbills, or ring Heather Ward on 0115 928 3603.

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 Services at Holy Cross during the week:  
**Mass: Monday at 10:00am only, after which the church will be closed.**  
**Tuesday to Saturday, at 10:00am (with sermon) & 12:40pm.**  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday 10:30am - 12:30pm**  
**with Rosary and simple Benediction at 12:15pm.**  
 On Mondays to Fridays during the winter months the church will be open from 8am until 3:30pm.  
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